

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action of November 7, 2003, in which the Examiner made his restriction requirement made Final.

The Examiner objected to claims 69, 71-73 and 76 for technical reasons. In particular, the Examiner objected the antecedent basis in claim 69 for the words "said transition zones." In claim 71, the Examiner request clarification of the "zone of transition". The amendments to claims 69 and 71 are believed to address the Examiner's concerns. In claims 69 and 71 the transition zone is positively recited and identified. It is therefore respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the objection.

The claims have been rejected over Saito et al., JP Publication in view of Elton '046. According to the Examiner, Saito discloses an induction device with a distributed air gap and Elton discloses a conductor. The Examiner asserts that the combination would be obvious.

The Examiner's rejection of the claims is respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Saito discloses a power supply switching device. While Applicants have not made a translation of Saito, it is clear from the drawings and reasonable interpretation thereof, that Saito is for a low voltage solid state application. The Saito device is adapted for use in a solid state, low voltage, low power, and low current device. The present invention is a high voltage, high power device. Saito would not operate at the high voltage contemplated. Thus, there would be no reason to combine Saito with Elton, particularly since the conductor and Elton is for a transmission line.

Merely because elements of the combination may exist, does not mean that the combination is suggested. This is particularly true where there is no suggestion or motivation to combine them, such as when the combination would not operate. In effect the references teach away from the asserted combination.

New claim 115 has been added to recite a feature of the invention in which the current carrying conductor comprises a plurality of insulated strands and a plurality of uninsulated strands. In the high power application of the present invention, eddy currents may be produced within the current-carrying conductor. Accordingly, the strands are insulated from

each other in order to suppress migration of such eddy currents within the conductor. This feature is not shown or suggested in any of the references cited by the Examiner.

Applicants, however, wish to note that the Takaoka reference shows a transmission line having selected conductors insulated from one another. However, Takaoka is designed for suppressing the "skin effect" which is a different phenomenon from eddy currents. Accordingly, it is believed that Takaoka would not offer a suggestion for using insulated and uninsulated strands in an inductor device of the type claimed.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner reconsider his rejection of the claims, the allowance in which is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-2223 for fees, which may be required in this matter or credit any overpayment thereto.

Respectfully submitted

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